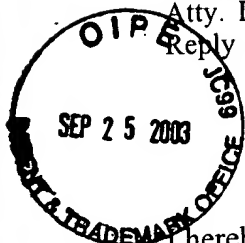


Application Ser. No.: 09/621,788
Atty. Docket No.: 12707 P03
Reply to Office Action dtd. 21 May 2003



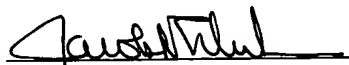
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on September 22, 2003.


Jacob N. Erlich
Reg. No. 24,338

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Daniele CASALINI	Examiner: C. KEEHAN
Serial No: 09/621,788	Art Unit: 1712
Filed: July 21, 2000	Confirm. No.: 4984
For: SURFACE-COATED HARD MATERIAL, PRODUCTION METHOD FOR THIS, AND USE OF THE SAME	

Perkins, Smith & Cohen, LLP
One Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02108
(617) 854-4000

To: Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Response (C) to Office Action Under 37 CFR §1.111

Sir:

In response to the (non-final) Office Action dated 21 May 2003 in the above-captioned U.S. patent application, it is respectfully requested that the following amendment be entered. A petition for a one-month extension of time and a check in the amount of \$55.00 (small entity fee) is being submitted herewith. No other fees are believed necessary for submission and consideration of this response, however, if additional fees are required, such fees are authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 03-2410, Order No. 12707-1.

Claims 1-18 are currently pending in the application. Through amendments and the Remarks that follow, the rejections of claims 1-18 are addressed and overcome.

Amendments to the specification begin on page 3.

Application Ser. No.: 09/621,788
Atty. Docket No.: 12707 P03
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Amendments to the claims begin on page 4.

Remarks begin on page 7.